Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Ankeny

Provider No.: 28339

Address: 225 E 1st St, Ankeny, IA, 50021

County: Polk

Director's Name: Kristi Parsons

On-Site Supervisor: Amie Littlefield

Phone Number: 5159647372

E-Mail: director.ankeny@cadence-academy.com

HHS Visit Date: 11/03/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/04/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years; Completed by Ankeny Fire Dept LT Tyson Hood.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	24	24	62		110
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was completed 11-3-25 Director Kristi Parsons and Assistant Director Amie Littlefield were present through the visit.

This center is part of the Cadence organization, which has various centers located within the metro area. Jennifer Villegas is the Regional Director for this site. The center director is Kristi Parsons who has been with this center since 1998. The assistant director is Amie Littlefield, who began in this role officially in May of 2022.. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

Hours of operation are 7:00 am till 5:30 pm. They serve children ages six weeks up through age five. They do not provide school age care.

Cadence Academy Preschool uses the Ascend program for curriculum which is set by corporate for all Cadence Centers. Corporate also sends out monthly themes and materials that teachers are able to choose and integrate in the classrooms. Kaymbu is the application used to communicate with parents and that parents can view for daily progress. The children were observed to be content. Teachers were engaged in either leading group activities or attending to an individual's need. The classrooms are clean and nicely organized with a variety of learning centers and toys.

This center offers morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The meals and snacks are in line with CACFP healthy guidelines for eating; and crafted by corporate and seasonally set by the center. The children eat family-style in their classrooms. The meals and snacks are prepared on-site and fresh daily.

Cadence Acad Preschool offers an outdoor area for large motor play that is enclosed and sectioned for ages. There is a good variety of play equipment outdoors with shade or shade structures available.

Transportation/Field Trips: no transportation is provided at this time.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has attained Level 4 in IQ4K. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on

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The center has had supported teachers participating in Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa.

The center has also supported Teachers participating in TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

The center has a very strong relationship with the families they serve. Families consistently give this center high reviews on a survey that is given by their parent company.

Cadence Acad--Ankenyoffers several long-term staff including the director and assistant director. The staff are engaged with the children and work well as a team. Many staff have college education including staff with Bachelor's, associates and CDA certificates. Staff meet monthly and this year all staff have completed PBIS training((Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) training provides educators with the skills to implement a school-wide framework for improving student behavior and well-being).

The center has a Facebook page and a website and has recently gone to an App for daily contacts which the parents and teachers like.

The center has a secure entrance and video surveillance.

The center conducts family events which have a large turnout.

Each classroom has an intercom which allows for easy and quick communication to the office.

The center participates in the Child Care WAGES and T.E.A.C.H programs (Child Care WAGE$ Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa. WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual’s level of formal education and commitment to their program).

The Cadence corporation is a strong support for the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(3)b: Signed statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters.

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

109.9(1)c
All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

A staff file reviewed did not have a signed statement indicated they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters. The assistant director printed a form and would have the staff read and sign this form.

A staff file required an updated SING (Iowa Check) which the director stated was completed later on this day and placed in the file accordingly.

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On staff file was missing a current physical exam form; the director stated an appointment was set for this staff to update this information within the week.

There were staff files with expired CPR/First Aid Certifications. It was stated that the company is attempting come into compliance as soon as possible, while having a group of employees complete the training to reduce the per-staff cost. The director stated this group CPR and First Aid training would be scheduled as soon as possible.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed on 10/31/24 will all levels testing below the 4.0 safety rating. This testing is due again in five years.

Discussion did take place with regard to the changing table in the infant room with the surfacing facing some breakdown and consideration should be given to replacement to abate disease transmission.

Discussion took place in 2022 regarding the washer and dryer in the two year old bathroom and either moving these or placing locks on the appliances. he washer/dryer have now been enclosed.

Date: 11/09/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.